

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

30 January 1960

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

On 28 January the Cuban Naval Attaché, LCDR Miguel Pons, requested permission to call on the Foreign Liaison Officer at the latter's home on the evening of the same day, as he had something to discuss.

LCDR Pons in company with Mrs. Pons arrived promptly at seven o'clock and were invited in for a drink.

After several minutes of casual conversation, Pons and the FLO moved to the bar, whereupon Pons immediately got to the point of the visit. He had decided that he could no longer support such a "cabron" and maintain any semblance of self respect and had therefore decided to resign and request political asylum. Prior to resigning he plans to send a series of pro-American recommendations and reports to Fidel Castro by dispatch. He is certain that each of these will invoke a reply which will reveal Castro's character. Upon resignation he plans to release the messages and replies to the press.

The next point raised by Pons was that Fidel would brand him a traitor and confiscate his property in Havana, valued at \$50,000, at which time Pons would be both out of work and penniless. He went on to state that he had \$50,000 in office funds in Washington and was most anxious to find out what the U.S. attitude would be if he took that money in exchange for his confiscated property. He specifically requested the FLO to get an opinion from the "right people".

When asked about the feelings of the Cuban Ambassador, Pons replied that the Ambassador had tendered his resignation three times and each time Castro had refused to accept it. The Ambassador then told Pons that he, the Ambassador, was too ashamed to face the American people any longer and returned to Cuba without permission of the Cuban government. When queried about the personal safety of the Ambassador, Pons stated the Ambassador was one of the few people Fidel respected, as he had once been his professor.

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Pons then volunteered the information that he had definite knowledge of a plot now being organized in Cuba against the Dominican Republic. The general outline is to train an unspecified number of Dominicans now in Cuba and "plant" them in "Santo Domingo" whereupon they will start an armed uprising with "some" local support. No Cubans will be involved at the start. When the fighting progresses sufficiently the "loyal Dominican patriots" (provided by Castro) will plead for Castro to intervene, which he will promptly do. After intervention the plan is to proclaim Castro President and form a federation similar to the UAR.

While discussing the "idiocy" of the Cuban government, Pons mentioned that when he first arrived in Washington he received complete cooperation from the U.S. When he described this cooperation to Raul Castro and told him how well everything was progressing and how promising the future looked, Raul replied, "You have failed in your mission, we want nothing from the U.S."

While Pons and the FLO were engaged in the above discussion Mrs. Pons was telling the wife of the FLO of their disgust with the Cuban regime and that they were ashamed to go to parties and face people. She added that her husband couldn't sleep nights because of worry about the way the country was headed. She further stated that she was terrified at what would happen as a result of her husband's decision. She is literally seeing "the bearded ones" in the vicinity of their home. Mrs. Pons is also apprehensive of the fate of her relatives in Cuba, particularly her mother.

Pons ended the evening with a plea to "please find out what the U.S. position will be if I take the \$50,000."

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